



# Casemate

Vol. 25, No. 21

Published for the community of Fort Monroe, Va.

October 24, 2003

## Fire, higher damage estimates won't deter post recovery efforts

BY PATRICK BUFFETT  
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Despite the upward spiral of damage estimates, and a costly fire that gutted a set of modular trailers primarily meant for childcare programs, Fort Monroe's director of Public Works and Logistics remains upbeat about continuing Hurricane Isabel recovery efforts.

"We're still on track with our recovery plan, and that's what matters most," said Lt. Col. Craig Simoneau after revealing a newly calculated damage estimate of more than \$104 million. That's roughly \$17 million more than the estimate announced earlier in the month.

A loss of time was the only setback of the Oct. 19 fire that seriously damaged several modular trailers that were meant to house hourly drop-off and after-school childcare programs displaced by hurricane damage, according to Simoneau. He estimated the cost of the fire damage was "somewhere near" \$198,000.

"The trailers were being leased by the government with an option to buy," Simoneau said. "We had not exercised the buy option, therefore, the buildings remain the contractor's property and we will bear none of that expense."

Simoneau said post officials will now "regroup" to explore alternatives for the childcare services that remain on hold pending a suitable facility.

As for other hurricane recovery projects, Simoneau said debris removal is one of the success stories yet to be told.

(See RECOVERY, Page 5)



**Halloween trick or treat hours, safety tips, events**  
(Page 4)

Photo by Patrick Buffett

**A happy ghost trio awaits the arrival of Halloween outside the quarters of Spc. Colin Bridges of the 233rd Military Police Detachment and his wife Samantha.**

## NERO builds solid foundation in first year

BY PATRICK BUFFETT  
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

With all the hubbub of Hurricane Isabel, it wouldn't be surprising if many post employees overlooked the important anniversary recently celebrated by one of the Army's newest agencies and its largest regional office at Monroe.

Earlier this month, the Installation Management Agency, along with its seven regional offices – one of which is headquartered here – celebrated its first year as the Army's newly appointed expert for base operations funding and installation support.

"We were given the requirement to establish initial operational capability in our first 12 months," said Rick Fontana, chief of staff for Monroe's Northeast Region Office – or NERO. With 26 Army installations under its purview, it's IMA's largest region. "Despite a couple of major hurdles, namely Operation Iraqi Freedom and Hurricane Isabel, we have accomplished what we were asked to do. We've have succeeded in building the regional staff and organizational structure required to operate effectively."

To fully appreciate the accomplishments of NERO and its parent organization over the past year, it helps to understand the Army's original "IMA vision." The agency was established to help garrison commanders tackle the day-to-day

"city management" of installations while allowing MACOM and senior mission commanders to focus on their core missions, according to the IMA website.

To "create more efficiency," IMA consolidated the various ways of running an installation into one agency that "pools and leverages total Army buying power" and conducts business to one standard across the service, the agency's website read. "IMA is a win-win situation. Mission readiness won't have to compete with installation management tasks for the commander's attention and the soldiers well-being and quality of life on the installation won't have to compete with the mission."

"It's all about common standards across the

Army," Fontana said. "And that goes beyond the everyday maintenance of base housing and facilities. For example, we might look at one installation like Fort Drum that keeps its gym open 130 hours a week and compare that level of service to what's provided at other installations in the region. The goal is a similar standard of service across the board."

Thus, according to the IMA website, soldiers and their families can better predict the level and quality of housing, child development, safety, recreational programs, educational opportunities and overall well-being support services as they move from one Army "home" to another.

IMA also established a new system for fund-

(See NERO, Page 3)

### Inside:

**Thrift shop open, (page 4)**  
**New U.S. citizen, (page 7)**  
**New bowling center manager, (page 12)**  
**Native American Heritage event, (page 15)**

**Fast food ... Staff Sgt. Thomas Scott, right, holds 1st Sgt. Pablo Diaz, HHC first sergeant, as he gets "lunch" served from Pvt. Travis Moore during Soldier Appreciation Day. More photos pages 10 and 11.**



Photo by Patrick Buffett



# Commentary

## Chaplain's corner

# Loss, grief, and a mark on the basement wall

**A**s the pile of debris expanded at Walker Airfield and the dumpsters outside offices continued to fill, there was a pervasive sense of loss ... a loss that still lingers in the air over the Fort Monroe community. Sometimes it comes out of the clear blue – sometimes you can see it coming from a mile away. Usually it's an internal conversation that rattles around in your head.

"I can't believe I have to just throw this desk away – the top is fine."

"It soaked up salt water – it's going to rot, mildew, grow mold and infect the entire office."

"But ..."  
"Throw it away – it's just a desk."  
"But . . . it was my desk for the last five years."

In spite of our conscious, reasoned, mature approach to recovery from Isabel, we may find ourselves numbed by the concentric ripples this storm has left in our lives. We're sad, but we're not really sure why; we're tired, but we haven't really done anything that strenuous; we're mad, but there's really no reason to be angry. All of these reactions are related to loss. Loss produces grief; and grief lingers in the recesses of our mind and heart

like a sad song waiting to be replayed again and again.

For the most part, we can reason our way out of grief:

— The damage could have been worse;

— At least the human toll was not that bad;

— I didn't really lose anything of value – insurance will cover my stuff.

This rationalization helps, but only for a short while. It doesn't satisfy our need to grieve and usually heaps guilt on top of the lingering sadness. It's time Isabel became no more than a mark on the basement wall.

**Give yourself permission to grieve:** A photo album costs \$19 to replace – but how do we replace the photographs of our one year old or that outing with the office staff? Plaques and mementos of old units are now molded, corroded masses of metal and wood – how do we replace something that was made especially for us? It doesn't take long for us to realize that we can't – so we need to grieve that loss before we can move forward. Does the extent of loss matter? Cognitively, yes – we need to keep our personal loss in perspective. Emotionally, however, grief is grief – we need to experience as much or as little as necessary to complete the task.

**Give yourself permission to move forward:** Gripping tightly to loss is counterproductive. Do what you need to move forward to the new reality of life without your favorite stuff. Have a burial service for your filing cabinet if necessary. Realize, too, that nothing can take your memories away – practice bringing up those photographic moments in your mind and rejoice that Kodak™ doesn't have a patent on imagination.

**Find a reason to laugh:** Some of the BMS Cat crew got a big kick out of positioning the mannequins from our Christmas nativity in the dumpster. They enjoyed the reaction of the motorists who waved at the friendly guy on top of the trash – before they realized it was a dummy. God is notorious for placing odd things in our path to remind us to be human – to cry and to laugh in the midst of difficult circumstances. He also reminds us not to place our security in the things of this earth, where it rusts (and molds!), but to place it in heaven where nothing – not even Isabel – can destroy it.

**Turn it around:** Easier said than done, this last piece of cheap advice is probably the most important. In the Old Testament, Joseph, who was sold to traders by his brothers and later became the



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Reese  
Post Chaplain

most prominent man in Egypt, told his brothers "what they meant for evil, God meant for good." Can we say the same about a Category 2 storm? Is my garage cleaner as a result of having to get rid of a lot of stuff I've been hauling around for 20 years? Did I learn a lesson about basement flooding at Fort Monroe (as I painted "Izzy 2003" on the wall for the next occupants)? Did I learn the value of family and friends, the strength of God in creation, the hope of God in community? When we begin to turn around the potential bad for the realized good, then we have most likely completed our tasks related to grief and, finally, let Isabel become a boring story we tell our grandkids.

# Parents, teachers, kids learn fire prevention at post fire department's annual event

The Fort Monroe Fire Department recently sponsored a program during Fire Prevention Week (Oct. 5-11), to stress the importance of home fire plans and drills, and working smoke detectors. Students, teachers, parents and caregivers from the local schools and the post child development center participated in the activities. Children were instructed to work on fire plans with their parents and caregivers showing two means of escape and a meeting place or safe place. They were then shown various items to be avoided, such as matches, lighters, candles and heaters.

There were also puppet shows, tours of the fire station and fire-equipment demonstrations.

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on Oct. 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on Oct. 9.

According to legend, the fire broke out after a cow belonging to Mrs. O'Leary kicked over a lamp setting the barn, and eventually the whole city, on fire. This legend has been discounted over the years, but the devastation of it changed the way fire fighters and public officials thought about fire safety.

On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago fire, the Fire Marshall Association decided the anniversary of the Great Chicago fire should be observed in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922 National Fire Prevention

(See FIRE PREVENTION, Page 3)

**Photo -- Fay Winston, a teacher at the post Child Development Center, is helped by Firefighter, Sheldon Cuffee, as she tries on a uniform at the fire station, Oct. 16.**



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

### Fort Monroe Editorial Staff

Commander.....Col. Perry D. Allmendinger  
Public Affairs Officer.....Nancy Popejoy  
Editor.....Connie Smalls  
Asst. Editors...Patrick Buffett, Patricia Radcliffe

### The CASEMATE®

Building 27, Fort Monroe, VA 23651-1032; (757) 788-3520/3208/3531; email: casemate@monroe.army.mil; or FAX (757) 788-2404; Casemate Online: <http://www.monroe.army.mil/casemate/>

## Casemate

This Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Casemate are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, or the Department of the Army.

The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of Fort Monroe Headquarters. Printed by Military Newspapers of Virginia, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Government under exclusive written contract with

Headquarters, Fort Monroe. Printed circulation: 5,000.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Army, or Military Newspapers of Virginia for the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

### Military Newspapers of Virginia

#### Peninsula office:

728 Blue Crab Road, Suite C  
Newport News, VA 23606

(757) 596-0853/FAX (757) 596-1473

#### Norfolk Office:

2509 Walmer Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23513

(757) 857-1212/FAX (757) 853-1634

# NERO

(Continued from page 1)

ing base operations and support. As of Oct. 1 – the beginning of the Army’s fiscal year – installation management funds began flowing straight from the agency to garrisons Army-wide.

“In years past, commanders often needed to move money out of BASOPS (a common Army acronym used in lieu of installation management) to meet mission requirements,” Fontana said. “Consequently, the Army was projecting BASOPS funding at 92 percent, whereas the actual amount of funds being spent at the installation level was much lower. The flow of money through IMA will give the Army a more accurate budget picture.”

**Soldiers, families to benefit**

And projects that are supposed to happen, like roof repairs, actually will, the IMA website explained. “Under IMA, the barracks that always seemed to be programmed for repair will finally be repaired,” the website read. “Under IMA, the housing that was always in disrepair with the promise of fixing it up will finally get fixed. Soldiers will be beneficiaries in improved quality of life and well-being.”

Like the IMA website, Fontana stressed the continued importance of MACOM and senior mission commanders under the new setup. “They are still our primary customers and the users of training facilities, housing and BASOPS services on the ground,” he said. “They provide valued input to the process and help ensure standards are maintained. In light of that, our director (Diane Devens) has spent much of the past year visiting each of the installations within the region to establish those working relationships needed to operate effectively.”

**Working out kinks**

Openly admitting to occasional “bumps in the road” earlier on – most of them associated with the understanding of new roles and responsibilities – Fontana said an attitude of cooperation and caring is more prevalent these days.

“There will always be resistance to change ... that’s unavoidable,” Fontana said. “But most of that is behind us. We’re down to the business of rolling up our sleeves and working on the quality of life and wellness needs of our soldiers, families and employees. We’ve established an open dialogue with senior mission commanders, and we’re seeing a level of caring that’s almost infectious ... they want us to succeed in what we’ve been tasked to do.”

Behind the scenes, NERO also spent the past year shaping its own workforce. Driven by the Transformation of Installation Management goal of building a corporate structure with far fewer levels of bureaucracy, NERO reshaped the workforce through early retirements and

an aggressive job placement program. NERO started last October with 80 excess employees. At the one-year mark, they have reduced that number to 22 with no adverse actions. “We are extremely pleased that we have been able to restructure and at the same time take care of the workforce,” Fontana said.

**‘Dream team’ overcomes recent challenge**

As an aside, Fontana offered a favorable plug to the NERO staff headquartered at Monroe. Despite being displaced from their offices by flood damage from Hurricane Isabel, they “haven’t missed a beat,” he said. “We set out to build a dream team, and the challenges overcome these past few weeks make it clear that we succeeded.”

Fontana also had a lot of good things to say about the cooperation and support received from IMA and the Department of Army over the past few weeks. “Keep in mind that Hurricane Isabel’s most serious damage path included five of our installations. But, if you drove across any one of those posts today, you might not even realize serious damage was done. I think that says a lot about the spirit of community that’s developed across the Army.”

Fully aware of the considerable administrative work and building of relationships that remains to be done within NERO, both Fontana and Devens remain optimistic. In a May interview with the Casemate, Devens compared their situation to the growth of a major food chain.

“If you look at the corporate world, something like McDonald’s – look how long it’s taken them to develop standards for its restaurants,” Devens said. “They’re pretty smooth right now, but it took a long time to figure out what the standards should be for operating hours, building facilities, staffing, etc.

“So, it’s going to take a lot of research (and) analysis,” she said. “And we’re not talking about a restaurant with one goal, we’re talking about installations that have many, many different kinds of services on it.”

Both Devens and Fontana estimated five years for full implementation of the IMA structure and 10 years to maturity. The true “measure of success” as they reach that point, according to Fontana, will be the realization that quality of life has truly improved across the board.

“Just like city management, we realize there will be times ahead that aren’t pretty and glitches that we might not be able to easily fix,” Fontana said. “But I also envision many more moments when the NERO team can say ‘I was able to help this soldier, this family, this community’ that will bring a tremendous sense of accomplishment.”



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

**Students and teachers from Cooper Elementary in Hampton react to the sounding of the fire truck’s horn outside the post fire station, Oct. 16. The children were treated to a puppet show and many activities to make them aware of fire prevention.**

## Fire prevention

(Continued from page 2)

Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which Oct. 9 falls.

Fire department personnel appreciate the opportunity to serve the post and local communities by providing vital fire prevention

information during this special month, and assistance on an as-needed basis to individuals and organizations throughout the year.

**(By Shirley McCollough, post fire inspector)**

3X5 VA Air



# News clips

## Off limits areas

The following areas on Fort Monroe are off limits to all personnel:

- Gazebo, Continental Park
- Seawall from Bay Breeze Community Center (formerly Fort Monroe Club) to Dog Beach
- Seawall behind Battery Parrot
- Chamberlin Hotel parking lot
- Debris area at Walker Airfield

Health and safety are the command's top priorities. Residents and employees must use extreme caution around areas that have been coned off or barricaded and around areas where work is ongoing.

## Trick or Treat on post

Trick or Treat on Fort Monroe will be on Oct. 31, from 6-8 p.m. Ages are up to 12 with a mask and 13 and up with no mask. Fort Monroe Military Police will be on patrol. Here are some things you can do to have a safe Halloween:

- Small children should be escorted by an adult, and older children should go in large groups.
- Carry a flashlight, and put reflective material on costumes. Costumes should not diminish movement or vision.
- Tell children not to eat anything until they are home and

treats have been examined by an adult. Cut and wash any fruit and throw away any unwrapped candy. Give your children something to take with them if they must snack while Trick or Treating.

- Approach only well-lit houses and stay in familiar areas. Tell children not to enter strangers' homes.
- Call the Military Police at 727-2238 or your local police department to report anything suspicious. (*Tips are courtesy Newport News Police Department.*)

## Post Halloween parties

**Children's Halloween Bowling Party** - Oct. 25, beginning at noon. The Halloween party for kids 6 to 12 years old will take place at the bowling center. Cost is \$5 per child and includes a costume contest, games, shoes, hot dog and drink and a party bag. Call 788-2939 for more information.

**Hallowswim at CAC pool** - Oct. 31, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. - Halloween Customer Appreciation Day free swim with gifts for best costumes and giveaways for kids. Call 788-3301 for more information.

## Veteran's Day event

A Veteran's Day observance will be held at 11 a.m. at the Hampton VA Medical Center, Nov. 7.

Col. Perry D. Allmendinger, post commander, will be the guest speaker. This year's theme is "50th Anniversary of Veteran's Day: Honoring all who served."

The VA is located at 100 Emancipation Drive, Hampton. The observance will take place at the waterfront area in front of the main hospital building. For more information, call 728-3450.

## Blood drive — Nov. 12

An American Red Cross blood drive will be held Nov. 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Community Activities Center. For more information, call 788-4623.

**Thrift shop news**

The Fort Monroe Thrift Shop is open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays. The shop is bursting with new TSP (Thrift Shop Property) and Red Tag items, according to Dibba Hamilton, shop manager. There are also new consignments.

(See MORE CLIPS, Page 8)

## EEO awards ceremony set for Oct. 30

All Fort Monroe military, civilian personnel and their family members are invited to the first Equal Employment Opportunity Awards Ceremony Oct. 30, from 1:30 - 3 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Community Center (formerly the Fort Monroe Club).

Sponsored by the post EEO office and hosted by Col. Perry D. Allmendinger, post commander, the event will honor and show appreciation to those who have supported the Installation EEO program throughout the year.

Luther L. Santiful, director of Equal Employment Opportunity and Civil Rights for the Department of the Army, will be the guest speaker. He is responsible for policy, guidance, direction, and oversight of all plans and programs

affecting equal employment opportunity for Army civilian personnel.

Individuals and organizations will be recognized for excellence in performance of their primary duties, for their outstanding support of the EEO and affirmative employment programs, for excellence in program implementation, and for contributions toward reaching EEO/affirmative employment program goals.

Also, individuals will be recognized in the areas of unit/organizational excellence, EEO leadership, community support, counselor of the year, mediators of the year, special emphasis employee of the year, soldier of the year, along with two special recognition awards.

For more information, call the EEO office at 788-3500.

3X10 N'Telos

3X3 Coastal

# RECOVERY (Continued from Page 1)

The post has moved 715-plus tons of household debris, furniture and other “non-biological matter” to local landfills. Scrap metal – primarily the guardrails that were destroyed along the seawall – is being recycled.

“We’ve also opted for the environmentally friendly approach in getting rid of the remaining 13,000 cubic yards of bio-mass (tree limbs, bushes and other organic matter),” Simoneau said. “We just awarded a contract to have it mulched, and we’ll use that for post beautification.”

Given the large amount of debris, Simoneau fully expects plenty of mulch will be available for post residents and employees. “Over the next couple of weeks, we’ll make an announcement as to when and where that can be picked up,” he said. “We’re also currently planning a fall-cleanup day – probably in early November – when we’ll resume deliveries of mulch and topsoil.”

Along those same lines, Simoneau reminded post residents that topsoil for gardens and flowerbeds is now available as well at the Self Help store.

Another hurricane recovery project nearing completion is the replacement of heating and air conditioning units drowned by Isabel’s floodwaters. “With the exception of six sets of quarters where commercial boilers are being replaced by geo-thermal heat pumps, every housing unit on Monroe is projected to have heat by Oct. 31,” Simoneau said. “I know temperatures are starting to get a little cool overnight, but heat is on the way.”

Supplemental heaters are now being provided to those who will have new geo-thermal systems installed by Dec. 6, Simoneau added.

As many residents have probably noticed by

now, the post engineers are also staying true to their word about “making smart decisions” during the recovery process. Condenser units are being placed on outdoor metal racks, well above the recorded levels of Isabel floodwaters. New furnace units are being suspended from basement ceilings to keep them off the floor.

“Yes, it’s slightly more costly, but it’s the smart thing to do to mitigate damage next time,” Simoneau said.

About 90 percent of the post’s military-owned quarters that sustained interior damage during Isabel flooding have been repaired. “There are

---

***Wherry housing residents who were told earlier this month that their buildings were being programmed for demolition will be receiving relocation notices “very soon.”***

---

six sets of quarters where the work involves replacement of cabinetry, hardwood floors, baseboards and portions of the walls,” Simoneau said. “That work is projected for completion by Nov. 18.”

Wherry housing residents, primarily in the 400 block near the Bay Breeze Community Center, who were told earlier this month that their buildings were being programmed for demolition will be receiving relocation notices “very soon.” The good news there, according to Simoneau, is that it appears all families and single service members – with the exception of the mobilized Guard soldiers – currently living in Monroe apartments will be offered accommodations in

units not scheduled for demolition this year. Further information about the current plan for Wherry can be found in the Oct. 10 edition of the Casemate, which is also available online at: tradoc.monroe.army.mil/casemate.

The reconstruction of first floor working areas on Monroe is also progressing as scheduled, Simoneau said. The BMS Cat team – contracted to dry and dehumidify post buildings – is expected to wrap up its projects by Nov. 6. As they clear each building, flooring and sheet rock teams will follow. The Post Library and Craven Army Health Clinic appear to be the first facilities that will be fully restored.

“Some of the larger buildings, like Building 5 inside the moat, will understandably take longer to complete because of their size,” Simoneau said. Current projections show some projects extending into the early months of next year. “Installation of new furniture will then follow,” he said, also noting that losses in that area total somewhere between \$8 and \$12 million.

**\$500 million aid bill clears senate**

Senator John W. Warner, R-Va., announced Oct. 17 that the U.S. Senate has adopted his amendment providing \$500 million dollars in federal aid for repairs to military and NASA facilities damaged by Hurricane Isabel.

The amendment is part of the \$87 billion bill covering military and reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

In Virginia, Warner’s amendment would cover facilities such as Fort Monroe, Norfolk Naval Base, Langley, NASA and Quantico.

*(Information extracted from a press release posted on Senator Warner's website.)*

3X7 Casey Cycle city

3X7 Air Force Services

# New, improved business travel process coming to Monroe

Fort Monroe is among the earliest installations in the Army to receive the new Defense Travel System. It should be in progress at Monroe in late November, mid-December timeframe.

First envisioned in the mid-1990s, DTS is now beginning a deployment that will see it expand eventually to the entire Defense Department. According to DTS Program Director Col. Larry Schaefer, “Within the next few years we will deploy DTS to the most high-volume travel sites within DoD. It will take time to deploy DTS to all of the DoD, but the process has begun.”

Col. Alan Tomson, the DTS executive director for Transformation, describes DTS as “a state-of-the-art, 21st century e-commerce system.” He explains, “DTS will mean online TDY (temporary duty) travel for virtually every person in the Department of Defense, both civilian and military. This is a quality of life issue for our people. They deserve DTS.”

Among the benefits DTS brings to travelers, authorizing officials, managers and commanders, those most touted include the following: fast, electronic reimbursement of travel expenses, approvals and certifications tied directly to mission, a significant reduction in time spent

administering travel, reduced paperwork, and the automated payment of government charge cards.

❑ **Fast, electronic reimbursement of travel expenses.** This is a priority item. As Tomson said, “Why should our travelers be financing our operations? That’s what happens, in effect, if we don’t reimburse them promptly.” Thanks to DTS, DoD will be able to reimburse all its business travelers quickly and electronically.

❑ **Worksite approvals and certifications.** DTS places approval of travel arrangements and certification of travel vouchers at the traveler’s worksite instead of at a servicing paying location. This allows decisions regarding travel to be made where the mission takes place.

❑ **Significant reduction in the time spent administering travel.** Reports to Congress based on field-testing of DTS indicate that on average the time spent administering travel is cut to one-third of what it had been before DTS.

❑ **Reduced paperwork.** As DoD’s single end-to-end electronic solution for Defense business travel, DTS is in fact online travel. It provides electronic connectivity between the traveler, the authorizing official, the service/agency

accounting and disbursing systems, the local comptroller’s budget, the commercial travel service provider, the commercial bank card service and the electronic archive of travel-related documents.

❑ **Automated payment of government charge cards.** This attribute makes DTS “a knight in shining armor” for many travelers and for military Services and Defense agencies. It takes much of the after-the-fact bill paying responsibility away from the traveler, and will work to reduce those delinquencies that are caused by having the extra delay in the payment/repayment chain.

Current plans call for DTS to be deployed to over 80 sites during Fiscal Year 2004. It will be deployed to more than 1,100 DoD installations by the middle of the decade, at which point it would encompass 90 percent of all DoD business travel.

Visit the Defense Travel System website at [www.defensetravel.osd.mil](http://www.defensetravel.osd.mil) and get a good look at the capabilities and functionalities of DTS.

*(Courtesy Program Management Office-Defense Travel System)*

# Cyber warfare is real; are you serious about security?

BY DR. MARY CAMPBELL  
NETCOM NE/NERO INFORMATION ASSURANCE PROGRAM MANAGER

Cyber warfare is real. Cyber terrorists constantly perform reconnaissance on Army networks and computer systems to find easy tar-

gets and undefended perimeters. Unlike the movies and popular books, Army networks and computers are not over powered by brute force and sophisticated programs bypassing firewalls and other perimeter defenses. More typically,

cyber terrorists target unguarded flanks and enter through “backdoors.” The war is raging and you must decide which side you are on.

Are you “friend” or “foe”?

There are several simple strategies you can build into your daily regimen to help hold the lines, while meeting Army Joint Ethics Regulatory and published Army Information Assurance requirements.

❑ Do scan all diskettes regardless of their source prior to using on Army computers. Viruses are introduced through diskettes from our homes, friends, maintenance personnel and even trusted Federal sources.

❑ Do lock your workstation if you are going to be gone for five or more minutes. Cyber terrorists seldom want your data - they want your ID to disguise their activities and point the investigators to you, instead.

❑ Do ensure your anti-virus program is updated weekly.

❑ Do use strong passwords - at least eight characters, and a combination of upper and lower case letters, special characters (#@!&\*&%), and numbers. Do not use recognizable words.

❑ Do not share passwords for any system unless the system developer and data owner have granted permission for group passwords.

❑ Do not download software from the Internet, or use freeware or shareware. Cyber terrorists often “hide” malicious codes in these programs.

❑ Do not go to non-Government chat rooms, or illegal, immoral or unethical sites. Cyber terrorists target these sites, find your signal, and try to follow your signal back to your computer.

❑ Do not open email notes or attachments from unknown senders. Learn how to recognize hoaxes and emails with potential

(See Warfare, Page 9)

3 x 7 Holidays  
H.R.

3 X 3 1/2 ECPI



# TUSCAB member becomes U.S. citizen

BY PATRICIA RADCLIFFE  
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

America, as seen on Chinese TV, promised a teenager all the riches and fame he could imagine. But the California sun and fun portrayed in the media were a world away from the Massachusetts rock on which this modern-day pilgrim landed.

Spc. Hu Li grew up in Beijing, the capital of communist China. At 19, he came to the United States to study at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Mass.

As a talented college freshman in Beijing where he played the bassoon, Li's course was being set to come to America. "One of my professors contacted a professor in New England and sent a video and audio tape of me as an audition. He liked it, and we wrote letters back and forth," Li said.

Since Li could not afford tuition to attend the Conservatory, the professor in New England applied for and won a scholarship on his behalf.

"Back then, I would have been happy if I got into any school in the United States. Coming to America is a dream. For the rest of the world, America has always been a dreamland. People sort of exaggerate this country, you know, the prosperity, the riches, everything about this nation.

"During the 1980s, I was still a teenager watching TV shows from the U.S., everything shown was so beautiful. They shot everything in California. Everybody had three or four cars: Jaguars, and Mercedes – that kind of thing. So, you kind of have this ideal in your mind, especially when you're a teenager."

### Homesick, culture shock

Of course, when Li arrived in the U.S., he did not fly into sunny California. "It was rather disappointing. Boston is a city that was built a long time ago. Every building is over a hundred years old. I got there in October. It was always rainy, cloudy and gray. The first week after I got there, it never cleared up. Plus, I got home sick, and there was complete culture shock.

Li endured difficulties including a language barrier. "I started [studying English as a child] in middle school, but it took me about two years [in the United States] to understand what people were saying. You know, in Boston they have an accent; in the South, they have an accent. Some people speak fast; some people speak slowly. Some people, when they speak, they slur their words. It just drove me crazy at first. I could hardly speak a thing. I had a piece of paper on



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe  
**Spc. Hu Li**

which I typed the address of my college. That's what I'd use when I was getting a hack (taxi), I'd just give the driver the paper.

### Outstanding benefits

Despite problems he encountered, there is one outstanding benefit. "I came here to seek fortune and fame, things that are not exactly eternal. I guess I began seeking the real meaning of life when I really started considering why I came to this country in the first place. It had been so difficult. And, [I felt] there was no hope.

"The biggest benefit for me coming to the United States was to come to know the Lord, the Eternal God ... just to have redemption and forgiveness of sin. I don't know whether it was through someone's prayer ... but I know it was through His mercy that I'm saved.

"Nothing," Li said, was what he believed previously. "Atheist, that's what I was at the time. When you're a little boy, starting in elementary school, they say, 'hey there was this guy, Darwin ...' They say that according to the rules of evolution, man came from monkey. When you are that age, you don't think twice about what you're being taught; especially, since the system in China is very strict. Children are taught to obey their parents, teachers and school regulations, period. But, it was the Lord's mercy that got me to this point."

One of the reasons Li wanted to become a naturalized citizen is so his wife of two years, Yajuan, can join him sooner than if he held permanent resident (green card) status. With Li holding a green card, it could take three to six years for Yajuan to come to this country. Whereas, as a citizen it would only

(See CITIZEN, Page 13)

## 3 X 14 Freedom Stores

Consignments are accepted on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Please call before bringing any large items to be sure there is room.

The shop is located next to the Fort Monroe Credit Union. It is open to the public for sales, but only

authorized ID card holders can consign items. For more information call 788-2566.

**Museum closed**

The Casemate Museum is closed until further notice due to water damage from last month's hurri-

cane. For more information, call 788-3391.

**Technologies demo**

A demonstration of various Consequence Management technologies for law enforcement and other first responders during crisis situations

will be held Oct. 27 from 1:30 - 5 p.m. at the Bay Breeze Community Center (formerly the Fort Monroe Club). Several technologies will be demonstrated; some include, Sky Watch, hydraulically elevated observation/surveillance booth; EDS, mobile satellite communica-

tion system; NEXTEL, handheld computer aided dispatching for law enforcement/first responders; and Biotech, mobile decontamination system. The Fort Monroe community is invited to attend. The demonstration is sponsored by the Command Provost Marshal Office, DCSOPS&T, HQ TRADOC. For more information, call Cleo Mackey at 788-3335.

**Red Cross vacancies**

The Fort Monroe Red Cross has the following vacancies:

**Secretary:**

- Attends bi-monthly advisory council meetings and takes the minutes.
- Records proceedings of regular and special meetings.
- Provides members with copies of minutes in a timely fashion.
- Coordinates with any other council members to obtain information necessary to proceed with duties.

Requires about four hours bi-monthly.

**Publicity Chair:**

- Attends bi-monthly advisory council meetings.
- Coordinates/writes news articles for distribution to the Casemate.
- Advertises available volunteer positions.
- Distributes flyers for upcoming blood drives.

For more information, call Marie Fago at 727-9646 or Mrs. Barrett at 722-9955.

**CFC ongoing**

Fort Monroe is collecting donations for CFC until Nov. 21.

For post information, call Paul Heilman at 788-3737; and for TRADOC information, call Michelle Proulx at 788-3241.

5 X 12 Suncom



# Troops can send hometown holiday greetings

SAN ANTONIO (Army News Service, Oct. 20, 2003) — The Army and Air Force Hometown News Service is now offering its holiday greeting program to service members worldwide, allowing troops to send relatives greetings through hometown newspapers.

Submissions will be accepted through Nov. 25, officials said. They said that the print greeting program is in its fourth year, but this is the first time it has been opened to Internet submissions from individual service members.

The print greeting program is a fully electronic Internet program that allows any service member to send a formatted holiday greeting to relatives through the Hometown News Service, officials said. After processing, the HNS staff e-mails the greetings to newspapers serving the relatives' community. The program is free to both the service members and their community newspaper.

"We have more than 1,000 hometown newspa-

pers signed up for newspaper holiday greetings, and they each cover several zip code areas," said Gerry Proctor, HNS chief of marketing. "Each form can generate several releases. The greetings are distributed according to ZIP codes and state.

"Complete and correct information is vital." Proctor said. "Submissions without a ZIP code or with an incorrect ZIP code go nowhere.

"Besides having several releases generated from each form, the service member can input multiple forms as well. Each person can submit as many greetings as they want," Proctor said. "You can send holiday greetings to your parents, in-laws, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and anyone who is a relative as long as you have their city, state and ZIP code." Program information and forms are accessible at HometownLink (<http://hn.afnews.af.mil>) from any government computer system. *(Information provided by Army and Air Force Hometown News Service.)*

# Warfare

(Continued from page 6)

viruses, Trojans and/or worms.

❑ Do not use remote software such as "PC Anywhere" or other "neat gizmos" or devices like personal digital assistants (PDAs), modems or desktop video teleconference cameras on your computers. These "gizmos" create unauthorized backdoors and make computers vulnerable.

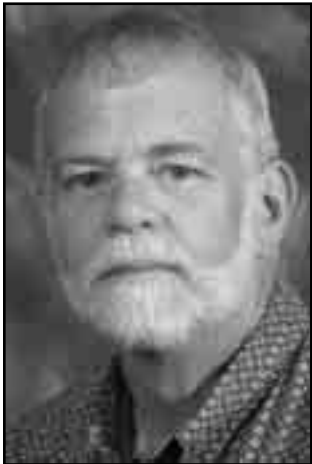
❑ Do not load any software to your PC without first getting approval from your supervisor AND your information assurance manager. This protects you and your computer.

For more information, contact your local information assurance manager and read AR 380-19, Information Systems Security to defend and protect our networks and computers.

Friend or foe —which are you?

## October employee of month

**Name:** Dan Fowlkes  
**Directorate:** DPW/L  
**Job/position and duties:** Contracting Officers Representative/ Lead Quality Assurance Evaluator  
**How long at current assignment:** 2 1/2 yrs  
**How long in govt./military service:** 22 1/2 yrs  
**Where do you live:** York County  
**Family:** Wife – Karen, 3 kids Tony, Kyrsten and Chris  
**Outside activities:** Motorcycle riding, hiking, camping  
**Goals:** Get new home in Middlesex County built.



Dan Fowlkes

4 X 10 GEICO

2 X 5 Commonwealth Theater





Staff Sgt. Anna Cortes, far right, and Spc. Mark Baier (wearing gray cap) lead the HHC team in the company relay during Soldier Appreciation Day Oct. 17. Also pictured are: Staff Sgt. Rashelle Houston, Spc. Jay McCullough, Spc. Scott Lambert and Spc. Elizabeth Ballestros.



Col. Perry D. Allmendinger, post commander, sports a face-full of cole slaw delivered during lunch-time festivities.

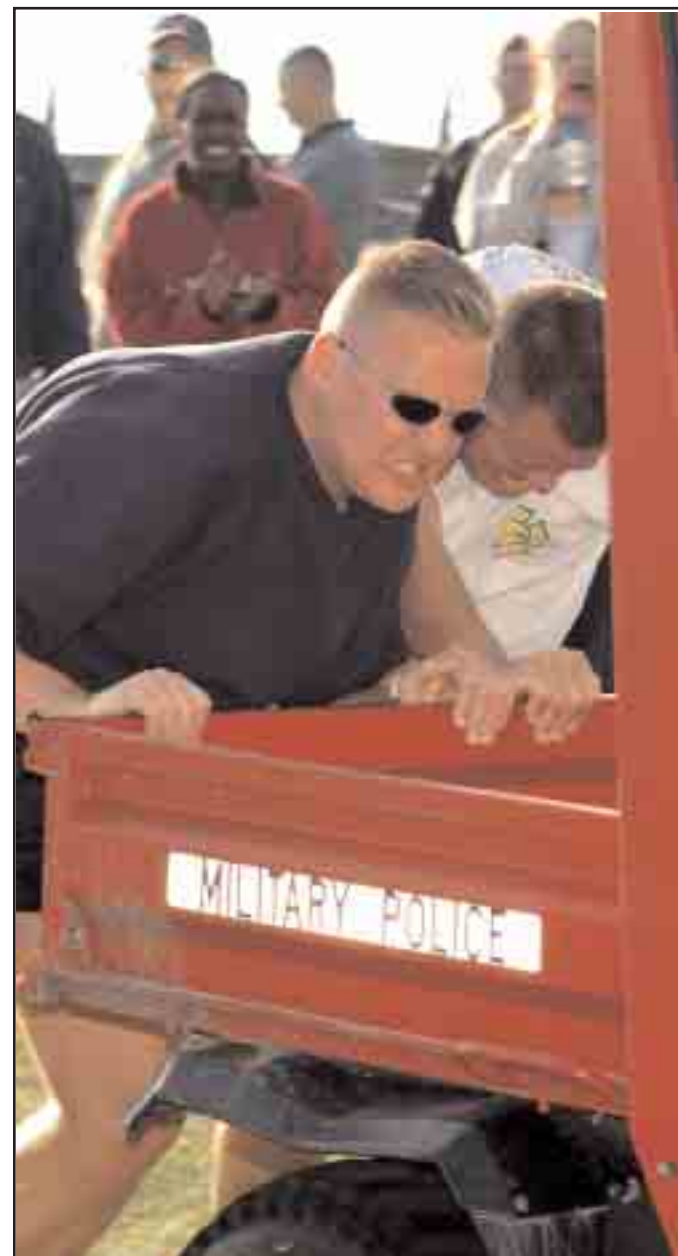


Post CSM Anthony Browning searches for a towel after being hit with a whipped-cream pie.

## Monroe says thanks with special day for soldiers



Top photo, Spc. John Walter, center, serves as point man for the C Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment team competing in the tug-o-war event during Soldier Appreciation Day Oct. 17 at post Picnic Area 5. Other pullers included Spc. Donald Bennett, Cpl. Jack Johnson, Spc. Edward Brannon and Pfc. Cooper Cash. Reigning Fort Monroe NCO of the quarter, Sgt. Robert Jones, left, was also among those on hand to root on the team. Above, with intense concentration, Cpl. Jack Johnson of the 116th led his team to second-place egg-toss victory. Johnson was partnered with Spc. Earl Logwood. Winning the sack race and tug-o-war events, and taking second in 3 on 3 basketball, the soccer shootout, volleyball and the egg toss, the 116th was declared the overall Commander's Cup winner of the day.



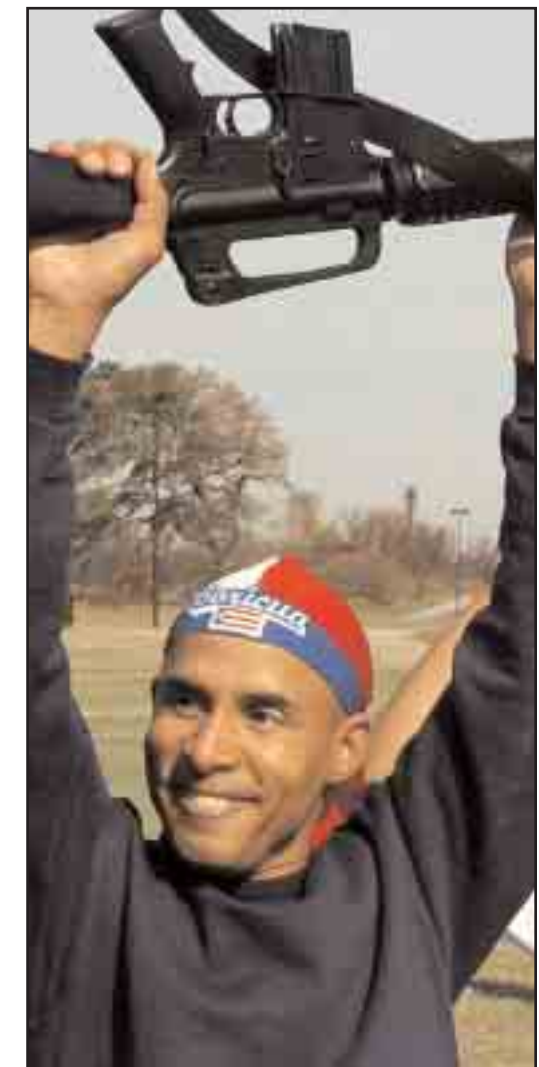
Staff sergeants Christopher Smith, left, and Paul Baker of The U.S. Continental Army Band compete in the "Mule Pull" during Soldier Appreciation Day. Competitors were required to push a golf-cart-sized vehicle about 40 yards in the shortest time possible. The 233rd Military Police Detachment won the event. HHC placed second.



Staff Sgt. Michael Visconti of the 233rd Military Police Detachment competes in the horseshoe competition during Soldier Appreciation Day. Overall winner of the event was The U.S. Continental Army Band.



Staff Sgt. Kathleen Khan of the Fort Monroe Medical Activity takes a shot at the net during Soldier Appreciation Day's soccer shootout. The U.S. Continental Army Band went on to win the event. Guardsmen from C Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment placed second.



Sgt. Ernest Galindez of the Fort Monroe Medical Activity celebrates his win of "Military Simon Says" during Soldier Appreciation Day, Oct. 17. Much like the traditional children's game, the competition required soldiers to only react to facing movements and rifle drill commands preceded by the words "Simon says." MEDDAC also won the volleyball and "dizzy izzzy" events.



# Sports & Health

## Former pro bowler manages post bowling center

BY PATRICIA RADCLIFFE  
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

If your father is a retired Army colonel, your oldest brother went to West Point and your oldest sister's husband also went to West Point, what is your most likely profession? Bowling, of course.

Chip Wikan, the new manager at the bowling center, is not new to Fort Monroe. "I've got a fondness for this bowling alley because my father retired from here [Fort Monroe]. And, I bowled some of my first games here back when it was new. So, I am well familiar with this center and with this post," Wikan said.

Wikan served his apprenticeship with the '71/'72 PBA (Professional Bowlers Association) player of the year, Don Johnson, and he was on tour until 1979 when he broke his hand. He held his PBA membership from 1978 through 1990 when he decided he would no longer bowl professionally.

Wikan has owned and operated pro shops, taught PBA bowling clinics and recently opened a running-shoe store.

He plans some changes for the bowling center, including a new face. "There are seven 'silver level' Team USA certified [bowling] coaches in this area. One is a man named Pete Discenza, who is coming on staff for marketing, promotion, to run a pro shop for retail sales and also for some teaching," Wikan said.

Another familiar person around the post, that



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

**Chip Wikan (right), gives Paul Heilman bowling tips right before Heilman bowled a strike during lunch time Oct. 22.**

is being seen more frequently at the bowling center, is Chuck McIntyre. McIntyre is not new to the sport, he has 43 years experience beginning during active duty with the Air Force.

He is also president of the approximately 4,000-member Hampton Roads Bowling Association. As such, he oversees the association's business endeavors and is involved in inspecting all military bowling facilities on the Peninsula. "We recently inspected the lanes at Fort Monroe, but because of the hurricane, we'll have to re-inspect them. Lanes are inspected according to American Bowling Congress specifications. That way, if someone bowls 300, we can ensure the record is valid," McIntyre said.

Anyone not throwing a 300 game yet may check out the new bowling classes at the center. They are free and are held 4 to 6 p.m., Wednesdays.

Special events, on-going and to come, include a turkey shoot and a no-tap tournament. In a turkey shoot, the bowler tries to score at least eight pins across 10 lanes (that is, eight per lane). Everyone who does, wins a turkey. It costs \$5 to enter. The turkey shoot can be played any time before Thanksgiving Day.

A no-tap tournament is scheduled for Thanksgiving Day. In no tap, if a bowler throws a nine, it scores as a strike. So, scores can get pretty high. "There are a lot of people who are either single or who are free in the afternoon, so at 7 p.m., they are looking for something to do and we will be open," Wikan said. It will cost \$15 to enter.

Call the bowling center at 788-2939 for more information or to schedule special events.

## Monroe runners tackle Army's annual 10-miler

Three teams from Fort Monroe were among the 13,198 runners to complete the 2003 Army 10-miler Oct. 5 in Washington, D.C.

The annual event is held in conjunction with the AUSA national convention.

The AUSA (Virginia Peninsula-General Douglas McArthur Chapter) and Fort Monroe sponsored the teams. This support defrayed reg-

istration fees and lodging the night before the race.

Two teams brought home first place trophies for their categories.

The civilian - masters mixed team (Moat Masters) defended their title by accumulating a total time of 4:37:35 which was 16 minutes faster than last year and over 34 minutes faster than the second place team this year. Two civilian -

masters mixed team members also placed in their age group. Tom Ray finished first in the male 70-74 age group with an individual time of 71:41 and Laurel Easterson finished second in the female 45-49 age group with an individual time of 72:48.

The military masters mixed team (TRADOC Masters Moater Scooters) combined score was 4:23:01 — over 25 minutes faster than the second place team. One military - masters mixed team member, Lt. Col. Mark Carper, finished fifth in the male 45-49 age group with an individual time of 58:37.

"Going up against tough competition in the military - open mixed category, our third team (Moater Scooters) placed 58th out of 117 teams", said Dale M. Abrahamson, team coordinator.

Among the runners was first time, and youngest, participant Tiffany Stephens. "One of the best parts about (the race) was the camaraderie," she said. "And there were people along the streets cheering you on ... it really makes you proud to be a soldier."

Cynthia Carpenter, also a first-timer, agreed. "General, colonel, civilian, sergeant ... it didn't matter what was on the collar. Everyone there was part of a team."

"The sight of 18,000 participants leaving the starting line was awe-

some," said Paul Cal, another first timer. "And I think all of us felt a lot of pride being there representing Fort Monroe."

The finishing times and places for team members are as follows:

DivPI #1 CIVILIAN - Masters Mixed - Moat Masters				
Team Score: 4:37:31				
Name	Age	DivPlace	Time	
Abrahamson, Dale*	54	7	1:03:57	
Dicarlo, John	54	21	1:09:05	
Ray, Tom	70	1	1:11:41	
Easterson, Laurel	46	2	1:12:48	
Easterson, Bruce	40	194	1:12:48	
Carpenter, Cynthia	45	53	1:26:17	
Sain, Karen	48	100	1:32:49	

DivPI #1 MILITARY - Masters Mixed - TRADOC Masters Moater Scooters				
Team Score: 4:23:01				
Name	Age	Div Place	Time	
Carper, John Mark*	45	5	58:37	
Wagner, Don	44	66	1:05:11	
Demeyere, Brian	46	44	1:07:00	
Lovett, Pamela	41	8	1:12:13	
Cal, Paul	40	133	1:10:09	
Giraud-Charreyron, P	45	89	1:11:37	

DivPI #58 MILITARY - Open Mixed - Moater Scooters				
Team Score: 5:36:33				
Name	Age	DivPlace	Time	
Campbell, Anthony	37	407	1:17:01	
Phlegar Jr, Emory *	36	410	1:17:02	
Nadine, Lehoux	39	124	1:23:00	
Singer, Laura	39	522	1:39:30	
Stephens, Tiffany	29	969	1:48:50	
Barlow-Jones, Candice	36	731	1:50:16	

\* Denotes team captains

The training program to defend and win new titles next year will begin in Feb 04, Abrahamson said. Contact any team captain for details.



Photo by Patrick Buffett

**Fort Monroe team participants of the 2003 Army 10-Miler display some of the trophies they won during the early October race. Pictured are: front row, l-r, John Carper, John DiCarlo, Cynthia Carpenter and Brian Demeyere; second row, l-r, Anthony Campbell, Tiffany Stephens, Nadine Lahoux, Laura Singer and Emory Phlegar, Jr.; third row, l-r, Dale Abrahamson, P. Giraud-Charreyron, Don Wagner, Karen Sain and Paul Cal.**

## Sports Shorts

### Fishing on post

Only active duty/retired military and DoD civilians can fish on post. Authorized areas are the seawall (except in the off limits areas from the Bay Breeze Community Center to Dog Beach and directly behind the Battery Parrott ); and on jetties and at Mill Creek, 24/7. Moat fishing is authorized in front of DOIM (Building 135), seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. A fishing license is required.

### Smoke Out 5K walk/run

The Fitness Center will celebrate the Great American Smoke Out with a noncompetitive fun event on Nov. 20 at noon. No registration is required, and it is open to the Fort Monroe community. Start and finish at the Fitness Center.

For more information, contact Jeanette Coffman at 788-4771 or [fitness@monre.army.mil](mailto:fitness@monre.army.mil).

### Basketball and Cheerleading

Registration is open. Fees start at \$35 (basketball) and \$30 (cheerleading) per child. Kids must be members of CYS, and a current physical is required before practice.

Volunteer coaches/assistants are needed and must be NYSCA, first aid and CPR certified. NYSCA class will be held Nov. 22 from 9 a.m. to

Casemate, October 24, 2003 **13**  
noon at Youth Services. For information, call Mike Jones at 788-3957.

### Bass fishing competition

The 6th annual striped bass world championship will be held Nov. 1 - Dec. 31. Fees are prorated by length of time in competition and vary for adults and youth. Thousands of dollars in prizes will be awarded to record setters.

For more information, call 800-VA-BEACH or visit [www.StripedBassWorldChampionship.com](http://www.StripedBassWorldChampionship.com).

## CITIZEN (Continued from page 7)

take 11 months.

“Holding a green card is like having a secondary citizenship – we do not have the right to vote but enjoy the other privileges of being a citizen. We can join the Army, not the Air Force. I didn’t try the Navy because I can’t swim.”

Li joined the Army May 30. “Actually the Army, or the military as a whole, is a good refuge for people like us. Otherwise, as classical musicians, what do we do? If you don’t get a job in a professional orchestra, you do a job for \$50 here or \$100 there, how are you going to live?” Li said.

Li’s first attempt to gain United States citizenship in 1998 was denied. “A guy at the immigration office said I had failed to register for selective service, which was something that I had never even heard of. He said, ‘hey, you mean to tell me that not any one of your school officials ever told you anything about having to register for selective service?’ So, I wasn’t accepted,” he said.

Li paid required fees and filled out the obligatory forms last September and submitted his application for naturalization. “Immigration is all about waiting,” he said.

“On Sept. 10 (this year), I became a citizen. The entire band went to the [naturalization] ceremony. The commander, XO, sergeant major, on down; I was totally overwhelmed.”

The basic freedoms Americans enjoy – life, liberty and pursuit of happiness – have not been realized by people in many other nations. Li said that the influence of this country has spread to most of the world and cries for democracy and liberty are still being heard.

## 2X3 Pines Golf Course

## 4 X 12 Verizon Wireless



# Moat notes

### Historical society meeting topic: Civil War

The Historical and Archaeological Society of Fort Monroe will hold its next meeting Nov. 5 at 11:30 a.m., at the Langley Officers' Club. Continuing the series on "Fort Monroe in the Civil War," Col. (ret.) Jack Hill will discuss the year 1862, with illustrations. This event is open to the public. For more information contact David J. Johnson at 788-3935.

### Chapel choir seeks new members

The Chancel Choir of the Fort Monroe Chapel of the Centurion is actively seeking new members to swell their ranks. Membership is open to all interested persons with a love for singing and the desire to express that love through music, both traditional and contemporary. Come join the choir as preparations begin for Advent, Christmas and beyond. The Chancel Choir rehearses in the Chapel Center (Casemate 21, inside the moat) on Wednesdays from 7 – 9 p.m., as well as Sundays at 10:30 a.m. before the Protestant service.

For more information, call the Choir Director Laurel Tsimokos Gonçalves at 223-0887.

### Homework assistance to high school teens

Homework help is available by appointment only at Youth Services (Building 221) on Tuesdays and Thursdays 6 to 7 p.m. A state-certified teacher will tutor students. Make appointments by 5 p.m. on Monday for Tuesday sessions and Wednesday for Thursday sessions. Call Sara Gray at 788-3957 for more information.

### Be smart, don't start'

A tobacco-free youth conference will be held Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at youth services. This conference is open to CYS-registered middle or high school youth. Transportation from youth services will be provided. For more information, contact Renee Hockaday or Saphronie Harrell at 788-3957.

### Chapel Center activities cancelled

All activities in the Chapel Center (only) are cancelled until further notice. This includes nursery on Sundays. Regularly scheduled worship services will continue in the Chapel of the Centurion.

### Local Plays

❑ **The Mousetrap** – Oct. 25 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 26 at 2:30 p.m.

For more information about this Black Entertainment Pearl presentation, call Dr. Jane Paige at (804) 694-0683.

❑ **A King's Heart** – Nov. 1 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 2 at 2:30 p.m. For more information about this Black Entertainment Pearl presentation, call Dr. Jane Paige at (804) 694-0683.

❑ **Virginia Symphony** – Nov. 15 at 8 p.m. Call 892-6366 for ticket information.

❑ **Sylvia** – Nov. 21 and 22 at 8 p.m.

Thomas Nelson Players present Sylvia. For ticket information, contact the TNCC Office of Student Activities at 825-2863.

### Character counts

A regional training event for professional child-care providers will be held Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Newport News office at 739 Thimble Shoals Blvd., Suite 1009. Cost is \$12 per person and includes materials and refreshments. Registration deadline is Oct. 27. Call Johanna Hahn at 591-4838 for more information.

### Sesame Street show

Sesame Street Live's "Out of this World" will be presented at the Constant Center in Norfolk Oct. 30 - Nov. 2. This dazzling production teaches kids about patience, cooperation and teamwork. Contact Kristie Shields at 683-6542 or kshields@odu.edu for more information.

### Free military appreciation weekend

George Washington's Mount Ver-



Photo by Terry Richey

**Group effort** — (l-r, front row) **Loren Woodward, Sydney Woodward and Mary Luke; second row: Erin Gardner, Alex Taylor and Shelby Richey; and third row: Grace Woodward, Bethanie Kindig and Alyssa Isham; show the food they've collected for the Helping Hands Food Drive, Oct. 11. The Girl Scouts are from Troop 1021, and according to their leader, Terry Richey, wish to thank the residents on post for their donations.**

non salutes active duty and retired military personnel (with ID) by offering free admission Nov. 8 through 11. There will be a concert by the Harmony Heritage Singers and also a wreath laying ceremony at Washington's tomb.

Call (703) 780-2000 or (703) 799-8697 (TDD) or visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more information.

### Barktoberfest

Friends of Hampton's Bark Parks is throwing its first Barktoberfest Oct. 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Buckroe Beach Bark Park for canines and their owners.

Activities include kid's games adapted to dogs like a "pig's ear walk" instead of a "cake walk." There will be costumed pets, dog tricks and a dog/owner look-alike contest. Call 727-6784 for more information

### At the Movies

Showing at the

Langley Air Force Base Theater:

Friday, October 31

7 p.m. – **The Order (R)**

Saturday, November 1

2 p.m. – **Secondhand Lions (PG)**  
7 p.m. – **Once Upon a Time in Mexico (R)**

Friday, November 7

7 p.m. – **Underworld (R)**

Saturday, November 8

2 p.m. – **The Rundown (PG-13)**

Saturday, November 8

7 p.m. – **The Fighting Temptations (PG-13)**

All movies at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted

Adults – \$2; Children 6 – 12 years old – \$1.50; and Children under 6 – free. (If a child under 6 occupies a seat at a G-rated movie, admission is \$1.50.) Special movie showings are available. Contact John Low at 766-1237; or [LowJ@aafes.com](mailto:LowJ@aafes.com) for details.

### Casemate Community Connection

### November luncheon to feature 'Make it, Bake it or Buy it'

The Casemate Community Connection will feature "Make it, Bake it or Buy it," at its Nov. 13 luncheon at the Bay Breeze Community Club, (formerly known as the Fort Monroe Club). Social hour and shopping begins at 10:30 a.m., with lunch served at 11:30 a.m.

Menu selections include mushroom quiche with a side salad; grilled chicken Caesar salad; or four-cheese penne pasta with marinara sauce. Apple pie with whipped topping, coffee and iced tea are included for \$7.50. For reservations, call Alice Reese at 723-2421 with the menu choice not later than Nov. 9.

"Make it, Bake it or Buy it" is an item made, baked or bought by a luncheon participant. The items will go into the auction area where members "shop" and look at all the items. When a person finds something they like, they put as many tickets as they want into a bag behind the item. One ticket will be drawn for each item, and the winner takes that item home. Tickets will be available for purchase at the luncheon.

Some suggestions for items: holiday gifts, pottery, crystal, porcelain, baskets, baked goods, gift certificates, etc.



## Native American Heritage Month Celebration to be held Nov. 4

Strengthening the Spirit is the theme of the Native American Heritage Month Celebration that will be held Nov. 4 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Fort Monroe Theater. Keynote

speakers are Sharon Batala and Michael Pavatea. There will also be a special performance by the Four Rivers Drum Group.

**Photo at right -- The Four Rivers Drum Group performs on post during last year's Native American Heritage Month observance.**



Photo by Wes Anderson

## 'Aztec Eagles' A Dying Breed; Only 10 of 300 Still Living

BY RUDI WILLIAMS

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

ANAHEIM, Calif., Oct. 21, 2003

**T**he more than 300 Mexicans who volunteered to help the United States kick the Japanese out of the Pacific islands during World War II are slowly passing on. Only 10 of them are still around.

Only three of them — two combat pilots and one ground crew member — were well enough to travel here from Mexico to be honored for their contributions by the Defense Department on Oct. 16 and 17. They were former "Aztec Eagles" pilots, retired Mexican air force Col. Carlos Garduno and Capt. Miguel Moreno Arreola, and ground crewman former Capt. Manuel Cervantes Ramos.

"Only 10 of us are still alive," Garduno said sadly during an interview at the Hyatt Regency Orange County Hotel here during DoD's Hispanic American Heritage Month observance.

The Mexican war hero said the Mexican Fighter Squadron 201, "El Escuadron 201," was composed of more than 300 volunteers — 36 experienced pilots and the rest ground crewmen. The ground crewmen were electricians, mechanics, radiomen, and armament — "all the specialties that are required for a typical fighter squadron," the colonel said.

***"We flew close air support missions for American and Filipino infantry troops on the ground ..."***

The Aztec Eagles were attached to the U.S. Army Air Forces 5th Air Force's 58th Fighter Group during the liberation of the main Philippine island of Luzon in the summer of 1945. The pilots flew P-47D "Thunderbolt" single-seat fighter



Photo by Rudi Williams

**Retired Mexican air force Col. Carlos Garduno**

aircraft carrying out tactical air support missions.

"We flew close air support missions for American and Filipino infantry troops on the ground, and had to hit where we saw a smoke bomb go off," Garduno said. "Otherwise, we could have hit friendly troops, because the difference in distance was about 300 yards between the enemy and the friendly troops."

"We were 31 pilots (who) went to war," said Garduno, who flew 26 combat missions and served more than 37 years in the Mexican air force. "Originally, we were 38 pilots, but two were killed in training and the others were eliminated from training. All the time we were in the war, we never got a replacement pilot. It took a long time for training, and by the time they were going to be shipped out it was too late."

The squadron left Mexico for the United States on July 24, 1944, arrived at Laredo, Texas, on July 25, and moved on to Randolph Field in San Antonio, where they received medical examinations and weapons and flight proficiency tests. They received five months of training at Majors Field in Greenville, Texas; Pocatello (Idaho) Army Air Base; Foster Field in Victoria, Texas; and Randolph. The pilots received extensive training in armament, communications or engineering as well as combat tactics, formation

flying and gunnery.

This marked the first time Mexican troops were trained for overseas combat. The "Aztec Eagles" flew 59 combat missions, totaling more than 1,290 hours of flight time. They participated in the Allied effort to bomb Luzon and Formosa (now Taiwan) to push the Japanese out of those islands.

"We were trying to get three more squadrons to have a whole group of Mexican air force in the war," Garduno said. "I joined the squadron of Aztec Eagles because as a professional military man, I was dedicated to serving my country, which had declared war against the Axis. Professional men have to accept the call to duty."

"They sent me to learn dive-bombing at North Island in San Diego with the Navy for eight months," continued Garduno, who noted his English, which he started learning at age 7, helped him during his military career. "But I flew only 26 missions because I had an accident and spent three weeks in the hospital."

***"... your pilot comrades that are not with you because they've passed on to the hills of Mexico, you live to remember them forever."***

Garduno said he remembers Mexican President Manuel Avila Camacho saying in his welcome home speech that "your pilot comrades that are not with you because they've passed on to the hills of Mexico, you live to remember them forever."

"It was like an order that each one of us never forgot," Garduno said. "So we formed an association of veterans, called 'Asociacion Mexicana de Veteranos II Guerra Mundial' (Mexican Association of World War II Veterans), which is very small now — only 10 members. We remember them every time one



Photo by Rudi Williams

**Retired Mexican air force Capt. Miguel Moreno Arreola**

dies. Every year we have a very important celebration on Nov. 18, which is the day we came back from the war."

Garduno, the association's president and international issues representative, has printed on the back of his business card, "This card identifies those who believe in the principles of freedom, for which veterans of many countries gave their lives. Voluntary affiliation will help to preserve their memory."

He said even today, the Mexican president, secretary of defense, air force and others support the surviving Aztec Eagles when they remember their dead on Nov. 18. The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, as well as British and French veterans organizations in Mexico, always participate in the observance.

"We all get together for International Remembrance Day on Nov. 10," Garduno noted. "It's just a very important day for us."

Arreola, who finished pilot training on June 3, 1944, remembers arriving at San Antonio's Randolph Field, which, he said, at that time, was the best school for pilot training.

"Sometimes something nice hap-

(See AZTEC EAGLES, Page 16)



# Blood donations halted from personnel deployed to Iraq

BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DOUG SAM-  
PLE, USA

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21, 2003, — A parasitic disease being spread by sand flies in Iraq has prompted officials who oversee the military’s blood supply to implement a one-year donor deferral for military personnel serving in that country.

The reason for the deferral is a form of the disease Leishmaniasis, which causes sores or lesions on the skin, and which in its most serious form can cause death.

Since 2002, military health officials have reported 22 cases of the disease, with the majority being reported this year.

“It’s a cautious deferral; we’re erring on the side of safety,” said Lt. Col. Ruth Sylvester, director of the Armed Services Blood Program Office.

“People who actually get the disease are permanently deferred,” she explained. “The issue with those who are exposed is that there is an incubation period before any symptoms appear — the deferral will prevent them from unknowingly

donating blood.”

According to the Armed Services Blood Program office, the parasite that causes the disease has been proven to survive in blood products stored under standard conditions for up to 25 days, and at least six cases of transfusion-transmitted cases of the disease have been reported.

Sylvester, who said she is not a physician but understands the disease, said there are two types of Leishmaniasis. The most common, but less serious, form is cutaneous Leishmaniasis, which causes lesions on the skin that may look like a volcano with a raised edge and center “crater” and may be covered with a scab, she said. “All of the military cases so far have been cutaneous,” she added.

However, she said the more serious form of the disease — visceral Leishmaniasis — can affect the internal organs of the body, such as the spleen and liver, and can lead to death.

Sylvester said military people who have been infected with the disease are being treated at Walter

Reed Army Medical Center here, where doctors have set up a special treatment program just for the disease. People infected with the disease undergo a three-week drug regimen that “will eliminate the disease and take care of the infection,” she said.

“I don’t believe there is cause for alarm,” Sylvester emphasized. “We had 22 cases in the last two years with all the people we’ve had deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq and throughout the entire Central Command area. So it’s a very small number, given the total number of people deployed.”

But she did express concern about the disease’s impact on the number of eligible military blood donors. The latest deferral is just one of many the military’s blood program is now facing, she said.

In recent years, the Armed Services Blood Program had to defer donors due to malaria risks around the world, and also had to defer people who might been exposed to a variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease — better known as “Mad Cow” disease — or who lived in certain

parts of Europe for specified time periods between 1980 and 1996.

“When we lose these donors, we have to bring in more donors,” Sylvester said. “We have to find donors who have not traveled, not been deployed, and haven’t lived in Europe. It’s imperative that we find donors who have not deployed, and we’re focusing our efforts on bringing those donors in.”

Sylvester noted that the military has plenty of eligible donors to draw from, and she encouraged military and DoD personnel, as well as family members, to donate blood on a regular basis by scheduling appointments with local DoD donor centers. Where DoD does not have donor centers, she encourages donations to local civilian agencies.

“In the DoD blood program, we only touch a very small percentage of the population that we draw from — about 20 percent of the eligible donors,” she said. “So there are plenty of donors out there. The challenge is to get them in the door and to get them to donate.”

## AZTEC EAGLES (Continued from page 15)

pens,” Arreola said with a big smile. “When I was waiting for my training, a beautiful lady arrived and said, ‘Are you Arreola?’ I said, ‘Yes I am.’ And she said, ‘I’m your instructor.’ “I was totally surprised because I never thought that a woman would be giving me training.”

Arreola was one of 34 out of 36 pilots to pass the examinations. “We left from San Francisco on March 27, 1945, and arrived in Manila on April 30 and (were) attached to the 58th Group,” said Arreola, who started out as a wingman and later became a commander. “Then they sent us about 70 miles north to one of the big islands. We arrived May 1, 1945, and raised our battle flag the second day there.

“We flew some very dangerous missions from Clark Field in the Philippines to Formosa, now called Taiwan,” continued Arreola, who flew 36 missions, including two over Formosa, during his six months in the Pacific. “We saw more frequent airplanes from Japan on that 650-mile trip than ever before. But they didn’t want to have combat

with us, because they knew our P-47s were better than their Mitsubishi’s. We could fly higher and faster.”

Arreola said the Aztec Eagles didn’t find out until Aug. 8, 1945, that the United States had dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, on Aug. 6. “We didn’t know what it destroyed, or if it destroyed anything,” he said. “Then on Aug. 9 they dropped another atomic bomb on Nagasaki.”

After the war ended, the Mexican pilots were sent to Okinawa and placed on standby.

Arreola said the Aztec Eagles dedicated a monument in Manila on Sept. 25, 1945, honoring the five pilots who were killed.

They left the Pacific and returned home triumphantly on Oct. 21, 1945. They were greeted as national heroes in Mexico City on Nov. 18 by huge crowds, including President Camacho.

“I said to the president, the mission is over,” said Arreola, who got out of the air force and flew civilian airliners in Mexico for 36 years. “That’s one of the best memories I have.”

But today, the enormous crowds are gone and in most cases, the Aztec Eagles are all but forgotten. “Now, we receive more attention in the United States than in our own country,” Arreola noted. “We have a very small pension, not like

the pension veterans in America have. We have very few dollars per month.

“But we’re very proud to have served with the American veterans in World War II,” he said.

Garduno said the cooperation between Mexico and the United States in World War II, “to go fight and help the Allied countries was very important.”

“In those days,” he noted, “Mexico still had a tremendous resentment toward the United States for the Mexican War of 1846 and 1847 and for the American occupation of Veracruz in 1914 during the Mexican Civil War. So about 90 percent of the population of Mexico was against cooperation with the United States during World War II.”

He said Mexican President Camacho had a tremendous opposition to cooperation with the United States. “It took the sinking of two Mexican oil tankers in the Gulf of Mexico by U-boats for the Mexican congress to accept a declaration of war on the Axis,” Garduno noted.

“As small as Mexico’s contribution was compared to the big nations, it was very significant,” he said. “We’re trying to convince the people that regardless of past conflicts we had with the United States, the important thing is to be together (as we were) in the Second World War. Unity, cooperation and integrity for our beliefs in freedom are the important thing. We won the war, but we still want to be winning the peace that we’ve had since then.

2X4 Nat’l  
Mortgage

2X3 Kecough-  
tan Laundry

### Fire prevention safety tip

Turn off portable heaters when you leave the room, or before going to sleep. Keep heaters three feet from combustibles such as walls, bedding, paper and clothing. Never fuel heaters while they are hot. Use the fuel type recommended by the manufacturer. All fuels such as gasoline, propane or kerosene must be kept in proper containers outside the home.

(Courtesy Fort Monroe Fire Department)